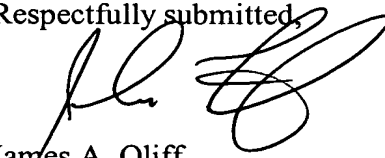


**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4-8, 10, 15-16 and 18-20 are amended to amend the multiple dependency. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

John W. Fitzpatrick  
Registration No. 41,018

JAO:JWF/ldg

Date: December 16, 2003

**OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC**  
**P.O. Box 19928**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22320**  
**Telephone: (703) 836-6400**

<p><b>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION</b> Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
---